

200300676-1

10/615,677

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed February 23, 2006. Reconsideration of the application in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status:

Claims 5 and 32 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer to expedite the allowance of this application. Consequently, claims 6-8, 12 and 33-35 remain pending for further action.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 6-8, 12 and 33-35 have been allowed. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner's conclusions regarding patentability, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, Applicant believes that the application is allowable because the prior art fails to teach, anticipate or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the claims or claimed subject matter may be paraphrased.

As no other claims remain pending in the application following entry of this amendment, the application should be in clear condition for allowance as determined by the Examiner.

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Prior Art:


With regard to the prior art, the outstanding Office Action rejected claims 5 and 32 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,546,210 to Nakamura ("Nakamura"); U.S. Patent No. 5,373,718 to Honma et al. ("Honma") and U.S. Patent No. 5,630,308 to Guckenberger ("Guckenberger"). This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation herein of claims 5 and 32.

Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

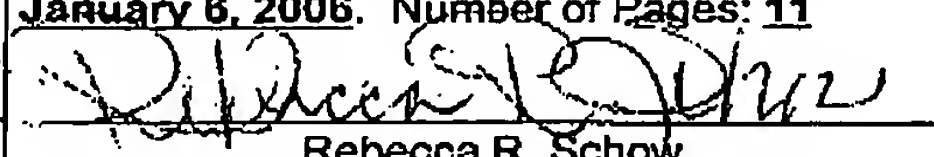
Respectfully submitted,

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<p align="center">CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number 571-273-8300 on January 6, 2006. Number of Pages: 11</p>  <p align="center">Rebecca R. Schow</p>
